

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 166665

43

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 EB-11 L-03

OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:BWRAMPPELMEIER
8/22/73 EXT 20920
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:BWRAMPPELMEIER
NAVY - CAPT COLEMAN
DOD/ISA/NESA - MR SCHAEFER

----- 023249

O R 221710Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF
CNO
USCINCEUR
CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 166665

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:MASS, SA
SUBJ:SAUDI NAVAL EXPANSION PROGRAM (SNEP)

REF: STATE 116469

1. FOLLOWING IS CHRONOLOGY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDIS
REGARDING SNEP COST ESTIMATES PREPARED BY OP-63 SAUDI NAVY
PROGRAM OFFICE. AMBASSADOR MAY FIND THIS CHRONOLOGY USEFUL
AS BACKGROUND IN PREPARATION FOR HIS MEETING WITH PRINCE
SULTAN ON AUGUST 23.

2. SNEP CHRONOLOGY (NOV 72-JUL 73)
NOV 72 - LCDR SAJA (CDR, RSNF) URGENTLY REQUESTED ESTIMATED
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS NEEDED TO RESPOND TO MODA OFFICIALS;
SAUDI AF AND ARMY PRESENTING COSTS ON THEIR PROGRAMS AND
SAJA CONCERNED NAVY MIGHT BE LEFT BEHIND. USN PROGRAM
COORDINATOR NOTED SHORE FACILITIES IN EARLY STAGE (LESS THAN

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 166665

50) OF MASTER PLANNING; NAVY SHIPS AND SYSTEMS NOT YET

CLEARLY DEFINED; RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO DEVELOP BROAD BUDGETARY ESTIMATES FOR PRESENTATION EARLY 73. USN/RSNF AGREED TO BASES FOR ESTIMATES, I.E., 19, 26 AND 27 SHIP MIXES; CRITERIA TO BE USED; AND PLANNING FACTORS. JAN 73 - PROGRAM COORDINATOR RECEIVED ESTIMATES; BRIEFING DEVELOPED; 19 SHIP PROGRAM RECOMMENDED; BRIEFINGS GIVEN TO CNO, SECDEF (ISA/NESA), HQUSEUCOM; 26/27 SHIP MIXES REJECTED DUE PERSONNEL CONSTRAINTS. TOTAL PROGRAM COST \$596M. FEB 73 - SAJA BRIEFED THREE SHIP MIXES; ACCEPTED 19 SHIP RECOMMENDATION. SHIPS REVIEWED IN DETAIL; PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON WEAPONS/FIRE CONTROL SYSTEMS MAJOR SHIPS (PF/PC/PG). WEAPONS/FC SUITS WERE THEN AVAILABLE USN-APPROVED SYSTEMS.

1 MAR 73 - PROGRAM COORDINATOR BRIEFED PRINCE TURKI (VICE MODA) ON \$596M PROGRAM, NOTING THESE BROAD BUDGETARY ESTIMATES AND THAT ALL ESTIMATING NOT COMPLETE. EMPHASIZED REASONS FOR INCREASED COSTS FROM EARLIER REPORTS. TURKI INDICATED APPROVAL; REQUESTED PROGRAM MOVE AHEAD SMARTLY. TURKI/RSNF REQUESTED THAT 2PG'S BE MISSILIZED FOR TOTAL 8 PGG. TURKI ALSO DIRECTED 100 HOUSING ALL SITES (SAG EFFORT TO UPGRADE MILITARY LIVING CONDITIONS).

MAR 73 - REPORT FROM RSNF, PRINCE SULTAN (MODA) UNHAPPY WITH PROGRAM COSTS.

1 APR 73 - PROGRAM COORDINATOR MET WITH TURKI TO DISCUSS COSTS AND BUDGETARY MATTERS. TURKI REQUESTED EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO CUT COSTS; BUT NOT AT EXPENSE OF NUMBERS OF SHIPS, ARMAMENTS, NAVAL PROFICIENCY AND TRAINING; ASKED RESULTS MAY/JUNE 1973. SAJA (WITH LATER TURKI CONCURRENCE) STIPULATED COST REDUCTIONS SHOULD NOT CHANGE HARBOR DEPTHS, AMMUNITION FACILITIES, COMMUNICATION, BUILT-IN EXPANSION FACTORS.

23 APR 73 - 76MM/62 (OTO MELARA) GUN APPROVED FOR SALE TO SAUDIS. PROGRAM COORDINATOR BRIEFED SAJA ON GUN; COMPARED WITH 3"/50, POINTING OUT 76MM GUN REQUIRED COSTLY FIRE CONTROL SYSTEM TO DEVELOP FULL CAPABILITIES. SAJA WANTED 76MM. MK92 FC SYSTEM FOR GUN NOT THEN AVAILABLE FOR OFFER TO SAUDIS. SAJA APPROVED INCREASED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 166665

SYNCHROLIFT CAPABILITY JUBAIL/JIDDA TO MEET FUTURE EXPANSION. SAJA REQUESTED THE 4 PC'S BE MISSILIZED.

MAY 73 - RSNF REQUESTED INCREASED TRANSMITTER POWER (FROM ONE TO TEN KW) AT ALL THREE COMMUNICATION SITES.

JUN 73 - RECEIVED APPROVAL TO OFFER MK92 TO SAUDIS. 76MM GUN AND THIS FC SYSTEM BECAME BASIS FOR ADVANCED WEAPON

SUITS FOR MAJOR SAUDI SHIPS. THESE SUITS ALREADY
DEVELOPED IN HOPE 76MM/MK92 WOULD BECOME AVAILABLE.

JUN 73 (LATE) - \$596M PROGRAM APPROVED BY KING
(REPORTED BY USMTM MESSAGE OF 16 AUGUST). SULTAN'S
INITIATIONS TO GAIN APPROVAL PROGRAM NOT REPORTED US.

30 JUN 73 - RADM GERHARD (OP-63) MET WITH TURKI, CHUSMTM

IN ATTENDANCE. OP-63 EMPHASIZED NEED FOR RECRUITING/TRAIN-
ING/IMPROVED ADMINISTRATION OF NAVY AS KEY TO SUCCESS.
OP-63 ADDRESSED IN GENERAL DETAIL THE SHIP SUPPORT
PACKAGE (11 LOA'S) AND REASONS FOR COST INCREASES; SHIP
OPTIONS AVAILABLE (EACH MAJOR SHIP LOA PRESENTED BASELINE
WEAPONS SUITS, I.E., THOSE PRESENTED MAR 73, AND ADVANCED
WEAPONS SUITS); AND ADDITIONS MADE AT SAUDI REQUEST, E.G.,
MISSILIZING 4 PC'S AND 2 ADDITIONAL PG'S).

30 JUN - 7 JUL - PROGRAM COORDINATOR PRESENTED LOA'S
AND HARPOON MISSILE RECOMMENDATION TO RSNF; NOTED USN
RECOMMENDATION FOR ADVANCE WEAPONS SUITS TO BEST MEET
CHALLENGES OF 1980'S. EMPHASIZED TOTAL PROGRAM ASPECTS
AND EXPIRATION DATE OF LOA'S 31 AUGUST 1973.

24 - 28 JUL - DURING PRE-FINAL SHORE FACILITIES MASTER
PLAN REVIEW, COST REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED RSNF.
(THIS PRESENTATION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE DELAYED AT REQUEST
RSNF TO HOLD REVIEW IN JULY). NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT
COST REDUCTIONS ACHIEVED. HOWEVER, SAUDI ADD-ON'S,
REFINEMENT DESIGN CRITERIA AND PLANNING FACTORS PLUS
RAPID ESCALATION RESULTED IN AN OVERALL INCREASE FROM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 166665

\$335M TO \$350M. ROGERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE166665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BWRAMPPELMEIER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS RAMPPELMIER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730822/aaaaapwz.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 116469
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUDI NAVAL EXPANSION PROGRAM (SNEP)
TAGS: MASS, SA
To: JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005